

able over the same art. Assignee of the present application, Alpine Engineered Products, Inc., is well aware of the Sanford patent due to Alpine's business dealings, including purchase of intellectual property rights from Sanford Industries, the named assignee on the Sanford '943 patent.

The Sanford patent does not teach an adjustment apparatus supporting the roller assembly at variable spacial relationships to the work surface while "maintaining the roller assembly parallel to the work surface" as required in independent Claims 8, 12, 16 and 19 of the instant application. The adjustment apparatus of Sanford (see Figure 8) individually adjusts each end of the roller assembly, not maintaining the roller parallel to the work surface during such adjustment. Claims 8, 12, 16 and 19 are, therefore, believed to be allowable.

The Claims 9-11, 13-15, 17-18 and 20 depend from allowable independent claims and are therefore allowable themselves.

New Claims 21-25 have been added to the application.

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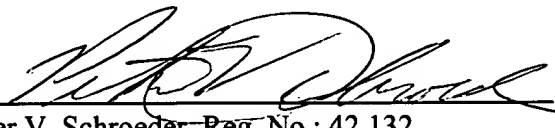
Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative

Signature

April 12, 2001

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
Peter V. Schroeder, Reg. No.: 42,132  
CRUTSINGER & BOOTH  
1601 Elm Street, Suite 1950  
Dallas, Texas 75201-4744  
(214) 220-0444; Fax (214) 220-0445

Attorneys for Applicant